

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0862

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7724

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OEXC (SHELLEY, LOUISE), UR

SUBJECT: IREX EXCHANGE LOUISE SHELLEY

REFS: (A) STATE 125287 (B) MOSCOW 7471

1. UNLESS DEPARTMENT OBJECTS, EMBASSY PLANS TO SEND PROTEST NOTE TO MFA ON CASE OF LOUISE SHELLEY (REFTELS). P&C COUSNELOR WILL ALSO FOLLOW UP WITH LETTER OF SIMILAR CONTENT TO DEPUTY MINISTER OF HIGHER AND SPECIALIZED SECONDARY EDUCATION. TEXT OF PROPOSED NOTE FOLLOWS:

"THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WISHES TO DIRECT THE ATTENTION OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO THE CASE OF MISS LOUISE SHELLEY, A JUNIOR SCHOLAR UNDER THE IREX ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM, WHO WAS ASKED TO LEAVE THE USSR AT THE BEHEST OF AN OFFICIAL OF THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

"THE EMBASSY STRONGLY PROTESTS THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AS UNWARRANTED, UNSUBSTANTIATED, AND HARMFUL TO THE PRINCIPLES AND SPIRIT OF THE ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE
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UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS.

"MISS SHELLEY HAS CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT THERE IS ANY BASIS WHATSOEVER FOR SUCH CHARGES. DESPITE REQUESTS BY THE EMBASSY, THE MINISTRY HAS NOT SUBSTANTIATED ITS CHARGES BY PROVIDING EITHER NAMES OR INCIDENTS WHICH WOULD IMPLICATE MISS SHELLEY IN ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE CONTRARY EITHER TO SOVIET LAW OR TO THE SPIRIT OF THE EXCHANGE AGREEMENT. IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH SUBSTANTIATING DETAILS, THE EMBASSY CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT THE MINISTRY'S ACTION AGAINST MISS SHELLEY IS UNWARRANTED AND EXCESSIVE.

"THE EMBASSY POINTS OUT THAT SUCH ACTS AS TAKEN BY THE MINISTRY STRIKE AT ONE OF THE MAJOR FOUNDATIONS OF THE EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM, NAMELY THE FREE MOVEMENT AND CONTACT BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE EXCHANGES AND CITIZENS OF THE RECEIVING SOCIETY. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT UNLESS THE PRINCIPLE IS SUPPORTED BY BOTH PARTICIPATING UNDERSTANDING AND INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT FROM THE EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES WILL BE DANGEROUSLY UNDERMINED.

"THE EMBASSY WISHES TO POINT OUT IN THIS REGARD THAT SOVIET STUDENTS ON SIMILAR ACADEMIC EXCHANGES IN THE UNITED STATES ARE NOT ENJOINED FROM ASSOCIATING WITH ANY INDIVIDUAL AMERICAN OR GROUP OF AMERICANS, WHATEVER THEIR POLITICAL VIEWS OR JURIDICAL STATUS, AND FREELY ENGAGE IN THESE CONTACTS. IT THEREFORE REGARDS THIS ACTION AGAINST ONE OF THE AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS IN THE EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM AS A DEPARTURE FROM THE PRINCIPLES AND SPIRIT THAT HAVE CHARACTERIZED OUR EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES IN THE PAST AND WHICH THE EMBASSY BELIEVES MUST CHARACTERIZE THEM IN THE FUTURE."

2 PLEASE ADVISE.
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